

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
May 1, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council Meeting was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on April 24, 2017, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board, and
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site.

Vice-Mayor Schock led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Schock, Councilman Dougherty, Councilwoman Torres, and Councilman Findley.

Absent: None.

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, Town Clerk Jamie Fenske, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Findley, to move new business item c Draft Budget - first reading to after minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor and Council will hold a Public Workshop Monday, May 15th at 6:30pm regarding the Proposed Fy 2017/2018 Draft Budget.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 29, 2017 in observance to Memorial Day.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the April 3, 2017 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft budget - first reading

Mr. Josiah explained that there is a proposed 4% increase on all expenses. He announced that there is a projected \$23,000 deficit at this time. His recommendation was to either cut expenses or increase revenue. He explained that payroll and vendor expenses have had to be increased. He added that he wanted to show Mayor and Council the deficit so that they always know what is going on with the Town's finances.

Mayor King questioned if COLA is included in the proposed budget.

Mrs. Marlow replied that yes the COLA is included in the proposed budget. She explained that COLA will cost the town \$12,816.

Mrs. Marlow added that the tax discount is projected at \$23,260.

Mayor King suggested reviewing the discount and possibly slightly lowering the discount, but still offering a discount.

Mr. Josiah explained that the revenues have been slightly increased as much as they safely can.

Mayor King questioned Mr. Josiah on what his recommendation is.

Mr. Josiah suggested to keep all options on the table. He explained that a tax increase should be reviewed. He added that the town does not want to increase rates drastically all at once. He also stated that he does not want to mask the budget because he wants to be open with Mayor and Council and keep them informed.

Mayor King stated that he wants to be aggressive now to prevent continued deficit and result in a large increase in rates. He thanked Mrs. Marlow and Mr. Josiah on their wonderful job on the proposed budget.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to approve the first reading of the draft budget as proposed for fiscal year 2017/2018. Unanimous, motion carries.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Josiah announced that most revenue have been brought in at this time. He added that we have actually brought in more than planned and are under in expenses.

Chief Bryson added that MSAF is not being discussed to be cut at this time.

Councilman Dougherty questioned if purchasing a new vehicle is cheaper than repairing the older vehicles.

Chief Bryson explained that the repairs on the older vehicles are becoming a bit costly. He added that the Explorers have a carbon monoxide issue but they will be the oldest in the fleet once the crown vics are gone.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dear explained that the Fire Department is getting a new sign that was paid for by the representative and senator. He explained that the fire department has a 3 million dollar budget that at times gets very tight. He added that a gentleman just recently donated a \$50,000 that has really helped. He also stated that they are planning for the carnival to come back this fall.

Mayor King added that everything Mr. Dear and all of the volunteers of the Camden Wyoming Fire Department do is amazing.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Councilwoman Torres explained that there was 5% increase on flat rate and there was a rate increase this year. She added that this rate is an automatic increase unless it is voted on to not approve it.

Councilman Dougherty added that he feels that it should have to be voted on to approve the increase instead of the way it is where the increase is automatically approved unless it is voted on to not approve.

Councilman Dougherty also stated that the new water tower was built with money that the CWSWA had on hand but they borrowed the money because it was cheaper for the CWSWA.

Mayor King asked Mr. Chaffinch to reach out to the Camden board members to have representation at the Council Meetings.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

VFW

Mr. Dufresne explained the VFW is still trying to do as many fundraisers as they can. They are hosting a Cinco de Mayo event on Friday.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Dufresne for always attending the meetings and for his dedication.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Bryson gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity.

Mayor King gave his condolences to Corporal Ballard's family and friends. He also stated that he greatly appreciates Chief Bryson and our police department for everything they do and asked them to stay safe out there.

Councilwoman Torres stated that she reached out to Chief Bryson and got an immediate response.

Councilman Dougherty and Councilman Findley thanked Chief Bryson and the police department for their hardwork.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the RETT check was \$24,800 for April. He added that the pot holes on Walmart Drive have been repaired. He also stated that the Public Works director has started doing his daily report. He informed everyone that anytime there is code enforcement there is a minimum charge of \$125, and an additional \$125 per hour, per employee. He explained that the public works department is responsible for cutting a lot of grass around town that is not code enforcement.

Councilwoman Torres stated that she feels the snow sign in Newells Creek needs to be moved.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that the sign will be moved.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked the town staff and police department for their continued hard work. He added that the public workshop will be May 15th at 6:30pm to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

COLA

Mrs. Marlow explained that the Philadelphia Index has a COLA of 1.7%. She added that if Mayor and Council approve the COLA it will cost the town \$12,816 and the tax discount, if approved, will cost the town \$23,260. It is Mrs. Marlow's recommendation to table COLA until the budget is approved at the June 5th Council Meeting.

Public Works vehicles

Mrs. Marlow asked to have this item tabled until more quotes can be received.

Mayor King suggested reaching out to Willis Chevrolet. He added that the current truck is a 2003 and is not in the best shape.

Public Works equipment

Mrs. Marlow explained that Taylor & Messick offered a \$2,800 trade in value for the current mowers, with a total cost for 2 new John Deere mowers of \$10,200. Burke Equipment offered a trade in value of \$1,600 for the current mowers and a total cost for 2 new Toros of \$15,568.

Mr. Chaffinch added that the John Deere come with run flat tires.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the purchase of 2 John Deere zero turn mowers from Taylor & Messick for a total cost of \$10,800.

Roll call;

Mayor King - yes

Councilwoman Torres - yes

Vice-Mayor Schock - yes

Councilman Dougherty - yes

Councilman Findley - yes

Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of ordinance for marijuana distribution centers

Chief Bryson explained that Walmart has increased the police departments complaint load about 20%. He added that if marijuana is legalized in Delaware there is a projected emergency call increase of 70%. Colorado has experienced a 67% increase in emergency calls. There is also an increase in homeless population, prostitution, weapons, murder, vehicle theft, along with other crimes. He added that this is a cash business which causes even more crime. His recommendation is to enact an ordinance or referendum to prohibit marijuana distribution centers in Camden.

Mr. Chaffinch added that the DLLG is against the HB that would legalize marijuana in Delaware.

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson to his attention. He added that his recommendation is to be proactive and create an ordinance to prohibit marijuana distribution centers in Camden.

Mr. Eliassen recommended that DLLG come up with a model ordinance that all of the town's can use. He added that this is a 2/3 bill. He explained that he will monitor this topic very closely.

Tax Discount

Mayor King asked to have this tabled until the fiscal year 2018 budget is approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made at 8:51pm by Vice-Mayor Shock, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*